

Z

733

B188P

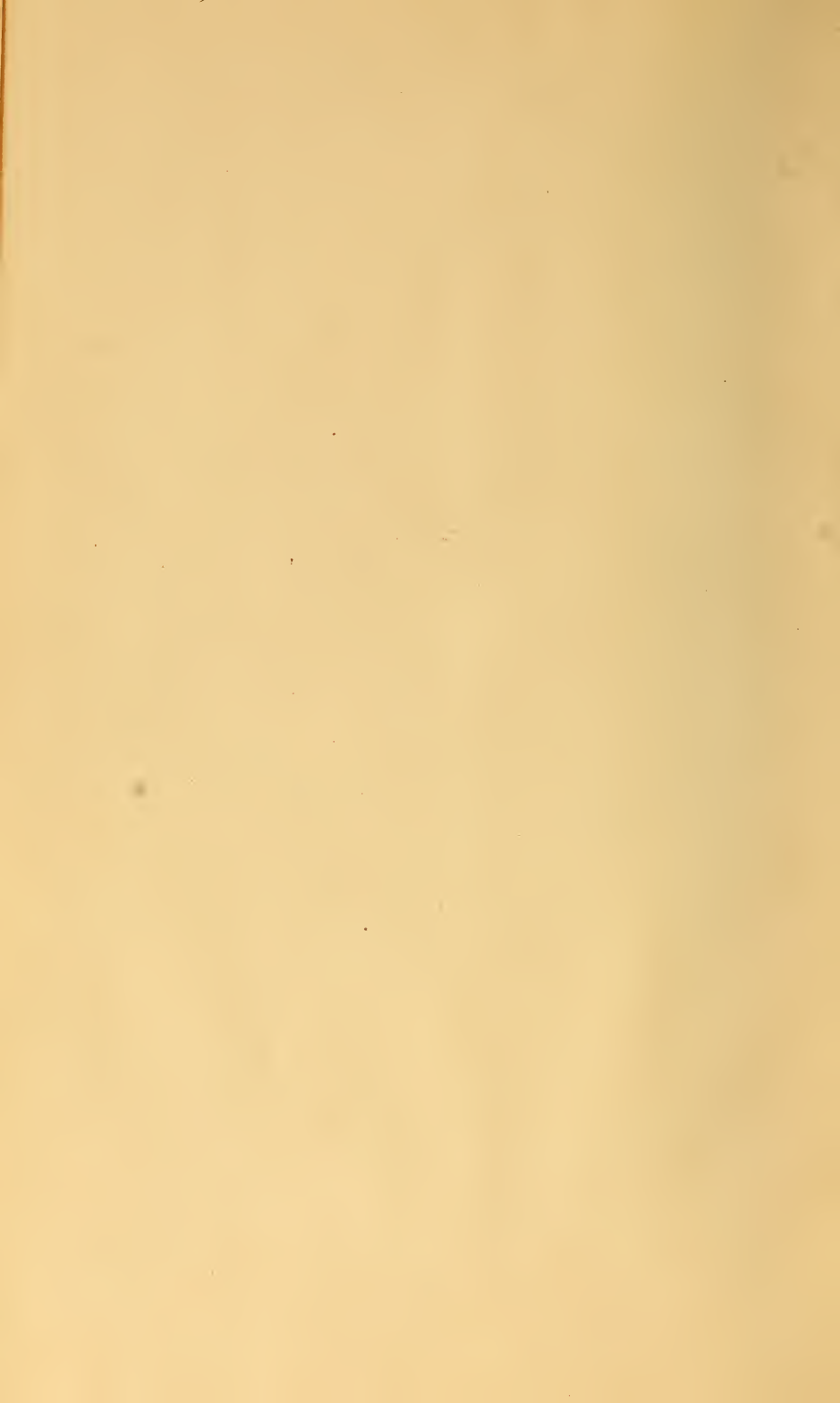
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. 2733

Shelf P35P B1887

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





LETTER

FROM

✓
GEORGE PEABODY, ESQ.
||

TO

THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE

IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

38

3



BALTIMORE:

PRINTED BY JOHN D. TOY.

1857.

2733

B188P

2733

LETTER.

BALTIMORE, *February 12th*, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:

In pursuance of a purpose long entertained by me, and which I communicated to some of you more than two years ago, I have determined, without further delay, to establish and endow an Institute in this City, which, I hope, may become useful towards the improvement of the moral and intellectual culture of the inhabitants of Baltimore, and, collaterally to those of the State; and, also, towards the enlargement and diffusion of a taste for the Fine Arts.

My wishes, in regard to the scope and character of this Institute, are known to some of you through a personal communication of my purpose. In the sequel of this letter I shall further advert to that subject.

In presenting to you the object I propose, I wish you to understand that the details proper to its organization and government and its future control and conduct, I submit entirely to your judgment and discretion; and the perpetuity of that control I confide to you, and your successors, to be appointed in the manner prescribed in this letter.

I request you to accept this trust as my friends, amongst whom, I hope there will ever be found the utmost harmony and concert of action, in all that relates to the achievement of the good which it is my aim to secure to the City.

You and your successors will constitute forever a Board of Trustees, twenty-five in number, to be maintained in perpetual succession, for the accomplishment, preservation and supervision of the purposes for which the Institute is to be established. To you and your successors, therefore, I hereby give full and exclusive power to do whatsoever you may deem most advisable, for the foundation, organization and management of the proposed Institute: and to that end I give to you, and will place at your disposal, to be paid to you as you may require, for the present, three hundred

thousand dollars, to be expended by you in such manner as you may determine to be most conducive to the effective and early establishment and future maintenance and support of such an Institute as you may deem best adapted to fulfil my intentions as expressed in this letter.

In the general scheme and organization of the Institute, I wish it to provide—

First.—For an extensive Library to be well furnished in every department of knowledge, and of the most approved literature ; which is to be maintained for the free use of all persons who may desire to consult it, and be supplied with every proper convenience for daily reference and study, within appointed hours of the week days of every year. It should consist of the best works on every subject embraced within the scope of its plan, and as completely adapted, as the means at your command may allow, to satisfy the researches of students who may be engaged in the pursuit of knowledge not ordinarily attainable in the private libraries of the country. It should be guarded and preserved from abuse, and rendered efficient for the purposes I contemplate in its establishment, by such regulations as the judgment and experience of the Trus-

tees may adopt or approve. I recommend, in reference to such regulations, that it shall not be constructed upon the plan of a circulating library; and that the books shall not be allowed to be taken out of the building, except in very special cases, and in accordance with rules adapted to them as exceptional privileges.

Second.—I desire that ample provision and accommodation be made for the regular periodical delivery, at the proper season in each year, of lectures by the most capable and accomplished scholars and men of science, within the power of the Trustees to procure. These lectures should be directed to instructions in science, art and literature. They should be established with such regulations as, in the judgment of the Trustees, shall be most effectual to secure the benefits expected from them; and should, under proper and necessary restrictions adapted to preserve good order and guard against abuse, be open to the resort of the respectable inhabitants, of both sexes, of the City and State: such prices of admission being required as may serve to defray a portion of the necessary expenses of maintaining the lectures without impairing their usefulness to the community.

In connection with this provision, I desire that the Trustees, in order to encourage and reward merit, should adopt a regulation by which a number of the graduates of the public High Schools of the City, not exceeding fifty of each sex, in each year, who shall have obtained, by their proficiency in their studies and their good behavior, certificates of merit from the Commissioners or superintending authorities of the Schools to which they may be attached, may, by virtue of such certificates, be entitled, as an honorary mark of distinction, to free admission to the lectures for one term or season after obtaining the certificates.

I also desire that, for the same purpose of encouraging merit, the Trustees shall make suitable provision for an annual grant of twelve hundred dollars; of which five hundred shall be distributed every year, in money prizes, graduated according to merit, of sums of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than one hundred for each prize, to be given to such graduates of the public Male High Schools now existing or which may hereafter be established, as shall, in each year, upon examination and certificate of the School Commissioners, or other persons having the chief superintendence of the same,

be adjudged most worthy, from their fidelity to their studies, their attainments, their moral deportment, their personal habits of cleanliness and propriety of manners: the sum of two hundred dollars to be appropriated to the purchase, in every year, of gold medals of two degrees, of which ten shall be of the value of ten dollars each, and twenty of the value of five dollars each, to be annually distributed to the most meritorious of the graduating classes of the public Female High Schools; these prizes to be adjudged for the same merit, and under the like regulations, as the prizes to be given to the graduates of the Male High Schools. The remaining five hundred dollars to be, in like manner, distributed in money prizes, as provided above for the graduates of the Male High School, in the same amounts respectively, to the yearly graduates in the School of Design attached to the Mechanics Institute of this City. To render this annual distribution of prizes effective to the end I have in view, I desire that the Trustees shall digest, propose, and adopt all such rules and provisions, and procure the correspondent regulations on the part of the public institutions referred to, as they may deem necessary to accomplish the object.

Third—I wish, also, that the Institute shall embrace within its plan an Academy of Music, adapted, in the most effective manner, to diffuse and cultivate a taste for that, the most refining of all the arts. By providing a capacious and suitably furnished saloon, the facilities necessary to the best exhibitions of the art, the means of studying its principles and practising its compositions, and periodical concerts, aided by the best talent and most eminent skill within their means to procure, the Trustees may promote the purpose to which I propose to devote this department of the Institute. They will make all such regulations as, in their judgment, are most likely to render the Academy of Music the instrument of permanent good to the society of this city. As it will necessarily incur considerable expense for its support, I desire that it may be, in part, sustained by such charges for admission to its privileges as the Trustees may consider proper, and, at the same time, compatible with my design to render it useful to the community. And I suggest for their consideration the propriety of regulating the conditions of an annual membership of the Academy, as well as the terms of occasional admission to the saloon—if

they should consider it expedient at any time to extend the privilege of admission beyond the number of those who may be enrolled as members.

Fourth—I contemplate with great satisfaction, as an auxiliary to the improvement of the taste, and, through it, the moral elevation of the character of the society of Baltimore, the establishment of a Gallery of Art in the department of Painting and Statuary. It is, therefore, my wish that such a gallery should be included in the plan of the Institute, and that spacious and appropriate provision be made for it. It should be supplied, to such an extent as may be practicable, with the works of the best masters, and be placed under such regulations as shall secure free access to it, during stated periods of every year, by all orderly and respectable persons who may take an interest in works of this kind ; and particularly that, under wholesome restraints to preserve good order and decorous deportment, it may be rendered instructive to artists in the pursuit of their peculiar studies and in affording them opportunity to make drawings and copies from the works it may contain.

As annual or periodical Exhibitions of Paintings and Statuary are calculated, in my opinion, to afford equal gratification and instruction to the community, and may serve to supply a valuable fund for the enrichment of the gallery, I suggest to the Trustees the establishment of such Exhibitions, as far as they may find it practicable from the resources within their reach.

Lastly.—I desire that ample and convenient accommodation may be made in the building of the Institute for the use of the Maryland Historical Society, of which I am and have long been a member. It is my wish that that Society should permanently occupy its appropriate rooms as soon as they are provided, and should, at the proper time when this can be done, be appointed by the Trustees to be the guardian and protector of the property of the Institute; and that, if it accept this duty and, in conformity with my wish, shall remove into and take possession of the apartments designed for its use, it shall also be requested and empowered to assume the management and administration of the operations of the several departments as the same shall be established and organized by the Trustees. That it shall, at a proper time in every

year, appoint from its own members appropriate and efficient Committees, to be charged respectively with the arrangement and direction of the operations and conduct of each department in the functions assigned to each by the Trustees. That, in the performance of these duties, it shall keep in view the purposes which it is my aim to promote; give due attention to the details necessary to accomplish them, and adopt suitable measures to execute the plan of organization made by the Trustees and carry into full and useful effect my intentions as disclosed in this letter.

The Trustees, after the Historical Society shall have accepted these duties, shall, nevertheless, possess a full and complete visitatorial power over the proceedings of the Society touching the subjects I have confided to the Board. To guard against any misapprehension which might lead to a conflict between these bodies, I beg it to be understood that, in this arrangement, I intend the power of the Board to be adapted to the organization and general direction of the departments, and that of the Society to their operations and conduct in conformity with such organization and general direction. I hope that the Board of Trustees and the Society

will always act in the discharge of the functions I have assigned to them respectively, with a liberal spirit of concert and co-operation and with a harmonious and united determination to render the Institute an agency of enduring benefit to the community in which it is placed.

If there be any legal incapacity in the Maryland Historical Society to assume and perform the duties which it is my wish it should undertake, the trustees will be careful to wait until that impediment is removed, by the grant of proper power to that end by the Legislature, before they commit these duties to that body. And if, at any time hereafter, that Society should become extinct, it will be the duty of the Trustees then existing to assume to themselves the ministration and management of the several departments of the Institute in the details I have here assigned to the care of the Society.

The Trustees will make such provision out of the monies I have now placed at their disposal, and out of such as I may hereafter give them, as may be necessary for the purchase of the ground and the erection of the building for the Institute; and will also, in due time, make all suitable pro-

vision for the investment of the several funds required for the repair, preservation and insurance of the building and other property connected with it; for its fuel, lighting and furniture; for the service of the Library and apartments belonging to it; for the yearly purchase of books; for the service, management and expense of the Lecture Department; for the charges and support of the Academy of Music; for the support, maintenance and gradual increase of the Gallery of Art; for the supply of the yearly prizes to the graduates of the High Schools, and the School of Design; and for all proper, contingent or incidental expenses of the Institute, in whatever branch the same may be needed. In the performance of this duty, I wish them to make a specific designation of the fund appropriated, from time to time, to each department, as well as of that for the general service of all; and that these several appropriations be made in such proportions as the necessities of each department may require and the means at the disposal of the Trustees may allow. And it is also my wish, in connection with this subject of the funds I have directed to be supplied, that they, as well as whatever I may hereafter supply, shall

always be held under the control and guardianship of the Trustees, in conformity with such regulations as they may adopt for their preservation, appropriation and investment, from time to time, in the administration of the trust. And that, when the Maryland Historical Society shall assume the management of the departments as I have mentioned above, the Trustees shall put at their disposal, in each year, the amount they shall have appropriated for each service, as hereinbefore required, to be disbursed by the Society according to its appointed destination.

These, gentlemen, are the general instructions I have to impart to you for your guidance in the laborious duties I have committed to your care. You will perceive that my design is to establish an Institute which shall, in some degree, administer to the benefit of every portion of the community of Baltimore: which shall supply the means of pursuing the acquirement of knowledge, and the study of art to every emulous student of either sex, who may be impelled by the laudable desire of improvement to seek it: which shall furnish incentives to the ambition of meritorious youth in the Public Schools, and in that useful School of Design under

the charge of the Mechanics Institute, by providing for those who excel, a reward, which, I hope, will be found to be, not only a token of honorary distinction, but also a timely contribution towards the means of the worthy candidate who shall win it, for the commencement of a successful career in life: which shall afford opportunity to those whom fortune has blessed with leisure, to cultivate those kindly and liberalizing arts, that embellish the character by improving the perception of the beautiful and the true, and which, by habituating the mind to the contemplation of the best works of genius, render it more friendly and generous towards the success of deserving artists in their early endeavors after fame.

For the fulfilling and preserving of the trust I have confided to you, my wish is that you, gentlemen, or as many of you as may accept this appointment, will meet together, at as early a day as may be convenient for you, and take such measures for your own organization and government as you may find necessary, making a record of your acceptance and of all proceedings you may adopt. That if your full number of twenty-five should be rendered incomplete by the refusal of any of you

to accept the appointment, you will, as soon as practicable, fill the same by the selection of the necessary number from a list of two hundred names selected from the ranks of your most worthy fellow citizens, which I herewith furnish you, and which list I desire you to enter upon your record for future use.

I also desire and request that if, at any time hereafter during the life of the present generation, vacancies should occur in your number of twenty-five, by death, resignation, incapacity to serve or removal from the State, you and your successors shall fill such vacancies, by judicious selection from the list above mentioned of such person or persons therein named as may then be living and may be qualified, by capacity and good standing in the community, to perform the duties required ; and when, in after time, this generation shall have passed away, I desire that your succession may be preserved by the appointment to vacant places in your Board of such of your sons, or the sons of those on the list I have given you, as may then be accessible to the choice of your successors and may be worthy, from their personal qualifications and good repute in Baltimore, to assume the charge of the In-

stitute. And, finally, when these sources shall fail, I desire that the succession in the Board of Trustees shall be ever maintained by the careful selection, from time to time, of such eminent and capable citizens of Baltimore, as may be willing to administer to the service of this community, by the devotion of a portion of their time to a work which, I earnestly hope, may be found to be, both in the influence of its example and in the direct administration of its purpose, a long, fruitful, and prosperous benefaction to the good people of Baltimore.

I must not omit to impress upon you a suggestion for the government of the Institute, which I deem to be of the highest moment and which I desire shall be ever present to the view of the Board of Trustees. My earnest wish to promote, at all times, a spirit of harmony and good will in society; my aversion to intolerance, bigotry and party rancor, and my enduring respect and love for the happy institutions of our prosperous republic, impel me to express the wish that the Institute I have proposed to you, shall always be strictly guarded against the possibility of being made a theatre for the dissemination or discussion of sectarian theology or party politics; that it

shall never minister, in any manner whatever, to political dissension, to infidelity, to visionary theories of a pretended philosophy which may be aimed at the subversion of the approved morals of society ; that it shall never lend its aid or influence to the propagation of opinions tending to create or encourage sectional jealousies in our happy country, or which may lead to the alienation of the people of one State or section of the Union from those of another. But that it shall be so conducted, throughout its whole career, as to teach political and religious charity, toleration and beneficence, and prove itself to be, in all contingencies and conditions, the true friend of our inestimable Union, of the salutary institutions of free government, and of liberty regulated by law. I enjoin these precepts upon the Board of Trustees and their successors forever, for their invariable observance and enforcement in the administration of the duties I have confided to them.

And now, in conclusion, I have only to express my wish, that, in providing for the building you are to erect, you will allow space for future additions in case they may be found necessary, and that in its plan, style of architecture, and

adaptation to its various uses, it may be worthy of the purpose to which it is dedicated, and may serve to embellish a City whose prosperity, I trust, will ever be distinguished by an equal growth in knowledge and virtue.

I am, with great respect,

Your friend,

GEORGE PEABODY.

To

WM. E. MAYHEW,	SAML. W. SMITH,
JOHN P. KENNEDY,	CHAUNCY BROOKS,
CHAS. J. M. EATON,	WM. F. MURDOCH,
THOMAS SWANN,	ENOCH PRATT,
GEORGE BROWN,	J. MASON CAMPBELL,
JOHN B. MORRIS,	GEO. W. BROWN,
S. OWINGS HOFFMAN,	GALLOWAY CHESTON,
G. W. BURNAP,	GEO. P. TIFFANY,
WM. H. D. C. WRIGHT,	WM. PRESCOTT SMITH,
JOSIAS PENNINGTON,	CHAS. BRADENBAUGH,
WM. MCKIM,	EDW. M. GREENWAY, Jr.
DAVID S. WILSON,	WM. C. SHAW.
JOHN M. GORDON,	

APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS
TO FILL VACANCIES REFERRED TO
IN THE FOREGOING LETTER.

BALTIMORE, *February 14th*, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:

IN the organization of the Institute to be established in this City, in conformity with a plan adopted by me, I have confided its government to a Board of Trustees, twenty-five in number, to be preserved in constant and perpetual succession by their own selection and appointment. And as from the nature of the duties required of them, they are necessarily limited within a compass which excludes a large number of those whom I should be glad to interest in the success of the undertaking, I have thought I might, in some degree, assure myself of this advantage, by placing in the hands of the Board of Trustees, the names of two hundred citizens, selected from the most worthy and intelligent

of this City, comprised of many whom it has been my good fortune, in time past, to rank amongst my intimate personal friends, several of the sons of my old associates now gone, and a still greater number of distinguished members of this community, with whom, from my long residence abroad, I have been denied the pleasure of intimate acquaintance.

These names have been communicated to the Trustees in a list for record, to be preserved by them for the purpose, so long as it may present persons qualified to perform the trust, of supplying the means of selection of the best citizens for such vacancies as must occur in the Board.

I venture to assure myself, gentlemen, that you will allow your names to be retained on that list for the contingency I have contemplated, and that you will regard this appeal to your aid, in that contingency, as a proof of my respect for the position you hold in the confidence of this community.

With the highest esteem, I am, Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

GEORGE PEABODY.

TO MESSRS.

Andrew Aldridge,	Dr. Joshua I. Cohen,
Augustus J. Albert,	Dr. F. E. Chatard,
Wm. J. Albert,	Joseph Cushing, Jr.
A. S. Abell,	Charles R. Carroll,
Wm. Stuart Appleton,	J. I. Cohen, Jr.
John H. Alexander,	Geo. B. Coale,
Rev. J. C. Backus,	Dr. Samuel Chew,
Rev. L. P. Balch,	Rev. A. C. Coxe,
F. W. Brune,	Jacob G. Davies,
J. N. Bonaparte,	J. J. Donaldson,
Dr. John Buckler,	John S. Donnell,
Dr. T. H. Buckler,	James Donnell,
Elisha N. Browne,	Geo. W. Dobbin,
Robert P. Brown,	Grafton L. Dulaney,
William Bose,	Thomas Donaldson,
R. J. Baker,	Austin Dall,
Samuel M. Barry,	H. Winter Davis,
Dr. Thos. E. Bond,	Basil T. Elder,
N. C. Brooks,	Geo. N. Eaton,
James Birckhead,	Hugh W. Evans,
Hugh Birckhead,	Hooper C. Eaton,
Robert D. Brown,	Wm. M. Ellicott,
J. G. Bathurst,	Hugh Davy Evans,
B. C. Barroll,	Rev. Alexius J. Elder,
William Cooke,	James I. Fisher,
John Clark,	Dr. Charles Frick,
Charles Carroll, of C.	Wm. F. Frick,

Rev. Richard Fuller,
 E. S. Frey,
 John Gibson,
 S. K. George,
 Geo. R. Gaither,
 R. Gilmor, Jr.
 Wm. F. Giles,
 Dr. Geo. S. Gibson,
 William Gill,
 Geo. M. Gill,
 Hugh Gelston,
 James George,
 Wm. H. Graham,
 Wm. Gilmor,
 W. W. Glenn,
 Henry Garrett,
 John Garrett,
 John S. Gittings,
 Lambert Gittings,
 Alex. B. Gordon,
 Patrick Gibson,
 John Henderson,
 Geo. B. Hoffman,
 Wm. H. Hoffman,
 Benj. C. Howard,
 J. Morrison Harris,
 Johns Hopkins,
 Wm. Taylor Hall,

John E. Howard,
 Edward Otis Hinckley,
 Charles Hinckley,
 Charles Howard,
 George L. Harrison,
 Wm. G. Harrison,
 R. M. Hare,
 Geo. C. Irwin,
 Reverdy Johnson,
 Rev. H. V. D. Johns,
 Reverdy Johnson, Jr.
 Hugh Jenkins,
 Wilmot Johnson,
 Dr. Christo. Johnston,
 Joseph King, Jr.
 Wm. H. Keighler,
 Anthony Kennedy,
 Charles M. Keyser,
 Edward Kemp,
 Dandridge Kennedy,
 J. H. B. Latrobe,
 Alex. Lorman,
 Alonzo Lilly,
 G. W. Lurman,
 Wm. P. Lemmon,
 Thos. W. Levering,
 Wm. F. Lucas,
 B. H. Latrobe,

Richard Lemmon,
 Robert Leslie,
 Jonathan Meredith,
 Samuel Manning,
 Wm. E. Mayhew, Jr.
 Thomas H. Morris,
 Charles F. Mayer,
 Isaac Munroe,
 Robert Mickle,
 Charles Marean,
 Rev. J. G. Morris,
 Brantz Mayer,
 Wm. D. Miller,
 Henry May,
 R. N. Martin,
 N. H. Morison,
 Dr. J. H. McCulloh,
 Louis McLane,
 Hazlitt McKim,
 Robert McKim,
 Dr. John P. Mackenzie,
 J. V. L. McMahon,
 James McHenry,
 Ramsay McHenry,
 Richard Norris,
 J. Spear Nicholas,
 Columbus O'Donnell,
 John F. Poor,

Charles R. Pearce,
 Wm. C. Pennington,
 David N. Perine,
 Henry Patterson,
 Charles H. Pitts,
 Rev. G. D. Purviance,
 William H. Price,
 George W. Riggs,
 W. T. Riggs,
 John Ridgely of Hampton,
 William Geo. Read,
 Dr. A. C. Robinson,
 Henry G. Rice,
 Lloyd Rogers,
 George H. Steuart,
 J. Spear Smith,
 David Stewart,
 Albert Schumacher,
 S. F. Streeter,
 James Swan,
 D. Sprigg,
 Dr. J. A. Steuart,
 Dr. N. R. Smith,
 Archibald Sterling,
 P. H. Sullivan,
 I. Nevitt Steele,
 Comfort Tiffany,
 Joseph Taylor,

Philip F. Thomas,	Henry R. Wilson,
Philip E. Thomas,	Rev. W. E. Wyatt,
Dr. J. Hanson Thomas,	Robert C. Wright,
Rev. O. H. Tiffany,	N. F. Williams,
William S. Tiffany,	William P. Whyte,
George Tiffany,	Thomas Wilson,
Alexander Turnbull,	Rt. Rev. W. R. Whit-
Robert A. Taylor,	tingham,
W. A. Talbott,	Samuel G. Wyman,
William H. Travers,	S. Teackle Wallis,
Joshua Vansant,	John White,
B. F. Voss,	Nathaniel Williams,
Henry Von Kapff,	Thomas Whitridge,
John C. Vanwyck,	James S. Waters,
Amos A. Williams,	Thomas Winans,
Henry White,	Otho H. Williams,
Lewin Wethered,	William H. Young.
Dr. John Whitridge,	

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

BALTIMORE, *February 19th*, 1857.

TO GEORGE PEABODY, Esq.

Sir :—The undersigned acknowledge the receipt of your Letter, addressed to us on twelfth of this month, and with a grateful sense of this evidence of your confidence and regard, accept the office of Receivers and Dispensers of the Munificent Fund which you therein dedicate to the erection and endowment of an Institute in the City of Baltimore. On behalf of those for whom this great benefaction is designed, we offer you most cordial thanks, with our admiration of the noble and generous heart which could conceive and execute so comprehensive a scheme for the improvement and gratification of thousands unknown and unborn. We will endeavor to manifest a just appreciation of our obligations to you, by prompt and unremitted efforts

to carry out the views and suggestions contained in your Letter. And we earnestly hope you may be permitted, for many coming years, to have the satisfaction of witnessing the accomplishment of all you propose and desire, in founding so splendid a monument of enlightened Philanthropy and exalted Patriotism.

JOHN M. GORDON,	WM. E. MAYHEW,
SAMUEL W. SMITH,	JOHN P. KENNEDY,
CHAUNCY BROOKS,	CHAS. J. M. EATON,
WM. F. MURDOCH,	THOMAS SWANN,
ENOCH PRATT,	GEORGE BROWN,
J. MASON CAMPBELL,	JOHN B. MORRIS,
GEO. W. BROWN,	S. OWINGS HOFFMAN,
GALLOWAY CHESTON,	G. W. BURNAP,
GEO. P. TIFFANY,	WM. H. D. C. WRIGHT,
CHAS. BRADENBAUGH,	JOSIAS PENNINGTON,
EDW. M. GREENWAY, Jr.	WM. McKIM,
WM. C. SHAW.	DAVID S. WILSON,

LETTER

FROM

GEORGE PEABODY, ESQ.

TO

THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE

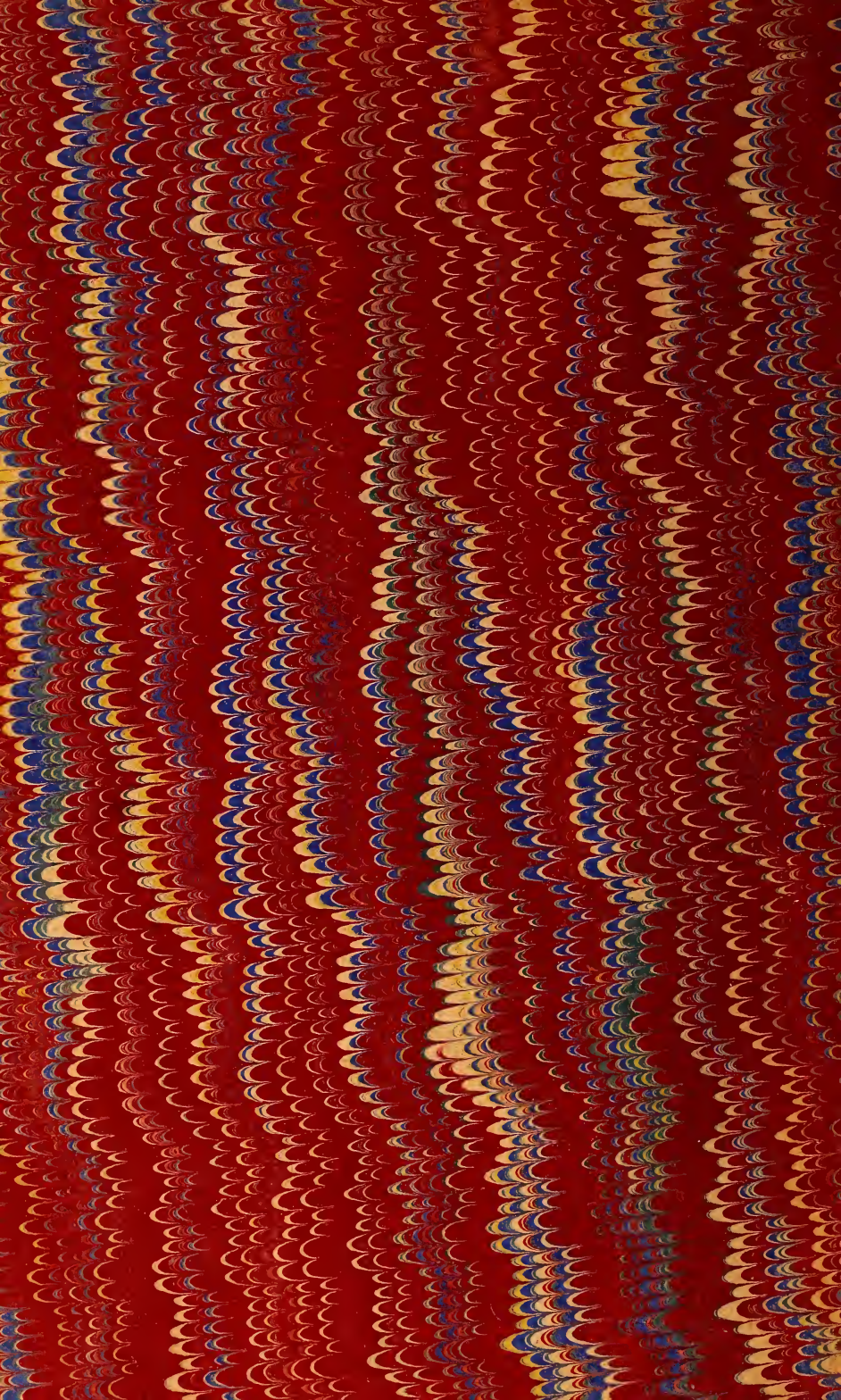
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE

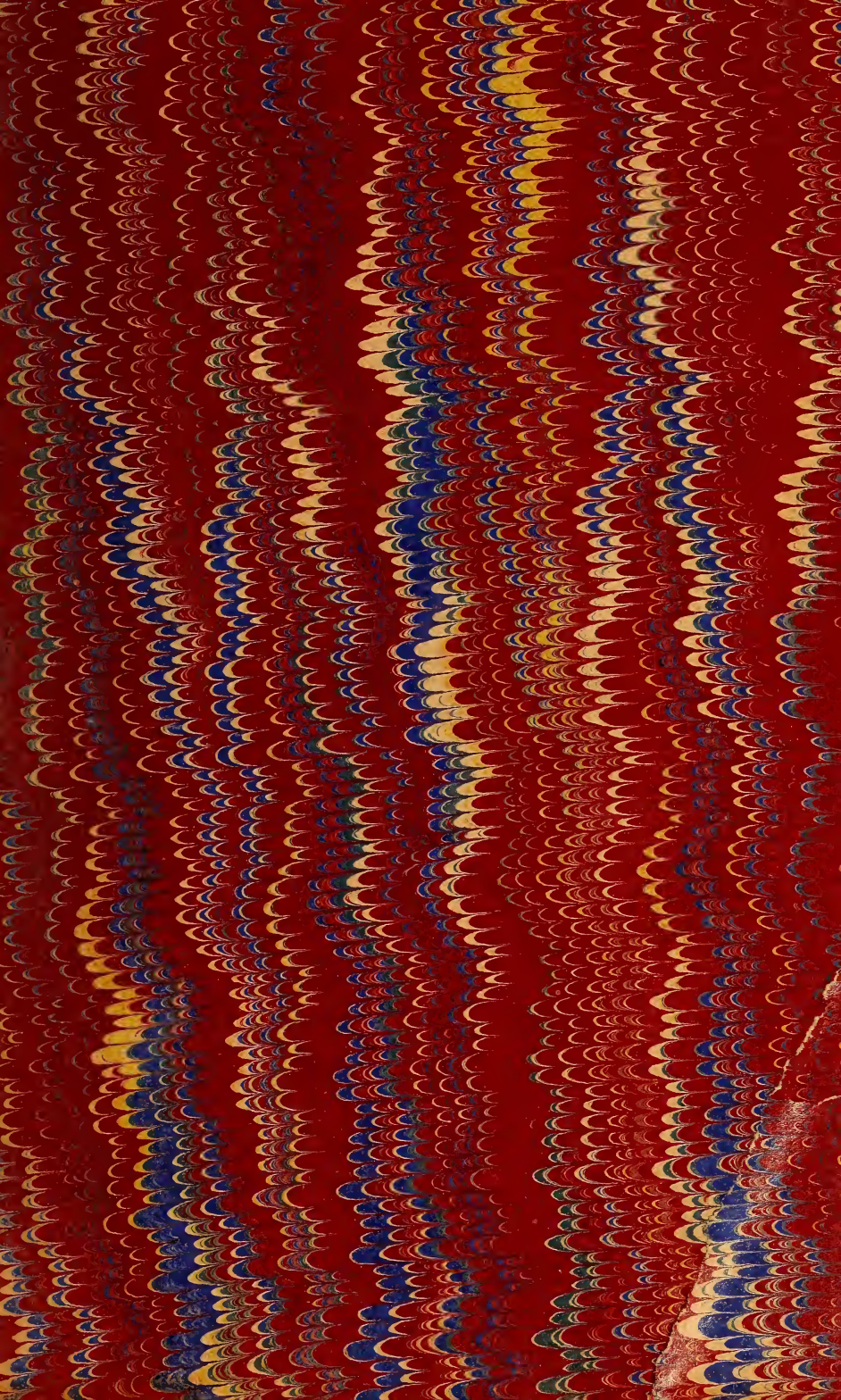
IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE:
PRINTED BY JOHN D. TOY.

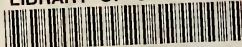
1857.







LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 027 275 488 3